AIC decision on appeal #91

CASE NUMBER AI7801
AUDIT INDICATORS
(Decision dated December 13, 2021)

Summary of Decision

• As part of its due diligence on appeals, the Access to Information Committee (“AIC”), through its secretariat, seeks the relevant business unit’s views on the possible disclosure of the requested information in light of the respective appeal. In this case, after consultations with the relevant business unit, such unit supported disclosing the information responsive to the request; the information has since been made publicly available (click here).

• Based on the above, consideration of the appeal asserting a “violation of policy” was not required.

The Decision

Facts

1. On October 11, 2021, the requester submitted a request, in relevant part, for individual country ranking of the Supreme Audit Institution Index (“Request”).

2. On November 5, 2021, the World Bank (“Bank”) denied public access to the information responsive to the Request based on the Deliberative Information exception under the Bank Policy: Access to Information, July 1, 2015, Catalogue No. EXC4.01-POL.01 (“AI Policy”). The Bank also noted that the Bank was “planning to release the individual country rankings in the next few weeks”.

3. On November 22, 2021, the requester filed an appeal challenging the Bank’s denial; the appeal was filed on the basis that there is a “violation of policy” (“Appeal”).

Findings and Related Decisions

4. In reviewing the Appeal in accordance with the AI Policy, the AIC noted that the Request under this appeal is for the same information requested in the appeal under Case No. AI7706. In such appeal under Case No. AI 7706, the relevant business unit indicated that the requested information was in the process of being made publicly available. The information was disclosed on December 10, 2021; it is publicly available by clicking here.

5. Based on the above, namely that the requested information responsive to the Request is publicly available, consideration of the Appeal was not required.